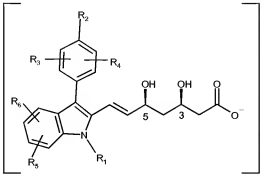
In the claims:

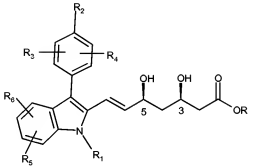
1. (Previously Presented) A calcium salt of the formula



(IA)

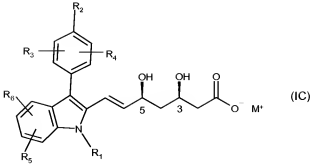
wherein R_1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl; R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, halogen or alkyl; R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy or aralkoxy; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof; made by a process comprising:

(1) hydrolyzing a compound of the formula



(IB)

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 have meanings as defined for formula IA; R represents lower alkyl; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; in the presence of an aqueous base to afford an alkali metal salt of the formula



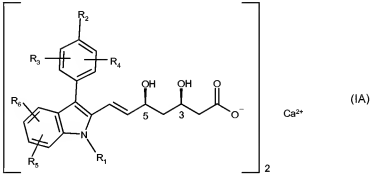
wherein M represents sodium, lithium or potassium; and

(2) treating the alkali metal salt of formula IC with a calcium compound to afford the calcium salt of formula IA.

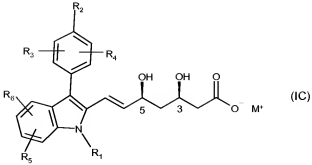
2. (Previously Presented) The calcium salt according to claim 1, wherein the aqueous base in step (1) is sodium hydroxide and M in formula IC represents sodium and wherein the calcium compound in step (2) is calcium chloride.

3. (Previously Presented) The calcium salt according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is isopropyl, R_2 is fluorine, and R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

4. (Previously Presented) A calcium salt of the formula



wherein R_1 is alkyl, cycloalkyl or aralkyl; R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently hydrogen, halogen or alkyl; R_5 and R_6 are independently hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, cycloalkyl, aralkyl, alkoxy or aralkoxy; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof; made by treating an alkali metal salt of the formula

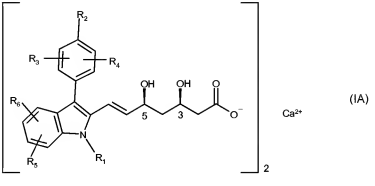


wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 have meanings as defined for formula IA; M represents sodium, lithium or potassium; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof; with a calcium compound to afford the calcium salt of formula IA.

5. (Previously Presented) The calcium salt according to claim 4, wherein M in formula IC represents sodium and the calcium compound is calcium chloride.

6. (Previously Presented) The calcium salt according to claim 4, wherein R_1 is isopropyl, R_2 is fluorine, and R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen.

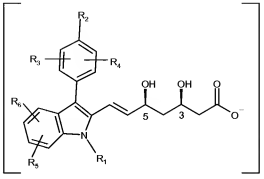
7. (Original) A crystalline calcium salt of the formula



wherein R_1 is isopropyl; R_2 is fluorine; R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof.

8. (Previously Presented) The crystalline calcium salt according to claim 7, which has a powder X-ray diffraction pattern with maxima at 2θ values of 5.3, 11.8, 13.9, 17.5, 19.1, 22.0 and 23.1 and which has a melting point of about 220°C.

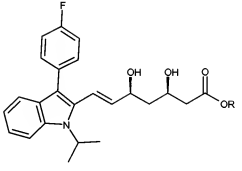
9. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a crystalline calcium salt of formula (IA)



(IA)

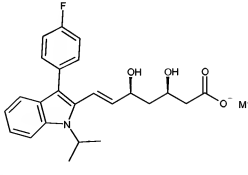
wherein R_1 is isopropyl; R_2 is fluorine; R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof, comprising:

(1) hydrolyzing a compound of the formula



(ID)

wherein R represents lower alkyl; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; in the presence of an aqueous base to afford an alkali metal salt of the formula



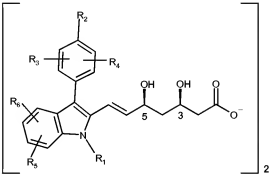
(IE)

wherein M represents sodium, lithium or potassium; and

(2) treating the alkali metal salt of formula IE with a calcium compound to afford the crystalline calcium salt.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the aqueous base in step (1) is sodium hydroxide and M in formula IE represents sodium and wherein the calcium compound in step (2) is calcium chloride.

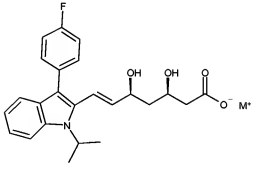
11. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a crystalline calcium salt of formula (IA)



(IA)

wherein R_1 is isopropyl; R_2 is fluorine; R_3, R_4, R_5 and R_6 are hydrogen; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof, comprising:

treating an alkali metal salt of the formula



(IE)

wherein M represents sodium, lithium or potassium; and the hydroxyl group at the 3-position is in the R-configuration and at the 5-position in the S-configuration; or an enantiomer thereof; or a hydrate thereof; with a calcium compound to afford the crystalline calcium salt.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein M in formula IE represents sodium and the calcium compound is calcium chloride.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:

a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipoproteinemia, dyslipidemia and atherosclerosis, comprising:

administering to a mammal in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a calcium salt according to claim 7.

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